

## Exhibit asks: History or hoax?

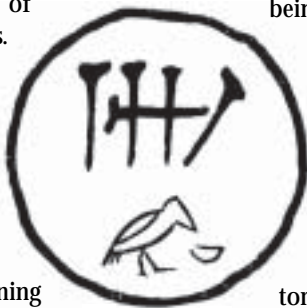
**B**etween 1890 and 1920, Michigan was the site of discoveries of clay, stone and copper artifacts. Known as the Michigan Relics, these artifacts bore writing and images seemingly akin to those of ancient Middle Eastern cultures.

Were these discoveries evidence of a lost civilization in Michigan or were they products of an artful hoax?

Visitors decide for themselves in the upcoming exhibit, *Digging Up Controversy: The Michigan Relics*, opening November 15 at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

In December 2002, the Office of the State Archaeologist—a Michigan Historical Museum sister agency—acquired nearly 800 Michigan Relics. Since then, archaeologists and museum staff have been working side by side to catalog and research the mysterious and controversial artifacts, preparing the collection for its first public viewing in more than 70 years.

Dr. John R. Halsey, Michigan's state archaeologist, says the controversial artifacts once earned Michigan the distinction of



being “the storm center of American archaeology.”

“Professional archaeologists of the era dismissed the relics as fakes. Believers saw—and continue to see—them as evidence of an ancient people in Michigan,” says Halsey. “What is indisputable is that as we trace the discovery and study of the relics, we see the development of Midwestern archaeology.”

An impressive selection of artifacts awaits visitors in *Digging Up Controversy*. The relics collection includes tablets, pipes, boxes, figurines, coins and more. The exhibit would not be complete without an introduction of the key people involved in the relics' discoveries—a Catholic priest, a sign painter and a former Michigan secretary of state. After examining the evidence and learning how archaeologists do their work, visitors will arrive at their own conclusions regarding the authenticity of these intriguing artifacts.

*Digging Up Controversy* appears in the first-floor special exhibits gallery through August 15, 2004.

## Museum docents invite you to tell it like it was



While docents are not required to wear special costumes or uniforms, museum docent Barb Koval adds to visitors' understanding of the past when she appears as a 19th-century teacher in the museum's one-room school gallery.

**D**o you love to talk? Do you love to learn? Would you love to talk and learn about Michigan's rich and colorful history? If the answers are “yes,” you'll probably love being a volunteer docent (tour guide) at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

MHM docents tell it like it was, sharing their love for and knowledge of Michigan history with a variety of museum visitors including schoolchildren, senior groups, families and others.

Docents come from all walks of life. Teacher, student, doctor, dentist, minister and mechanic are just a few of their titles.

Some join the docent guild after retirement. Others make time to volunteer while still in school or in the workforce. The commitment of time isn't too demanding—just 100 hours over a one-year period, served in three-hour segments that are convenient to your schedule. And the rewards are significant.

While helping others appreciate their heritage, you'll learn a thing or two as well: the initial docent-training program and optional workshops and field trips guarantee that.

And then there are the three Fs of being a docent: food, fun and fellowship. Docents get together several times a year at picnics and ice cream socials as well as formal, catered events to swap stories about tour giving and to get to know each other better. Again, participation is optional. If you love Michigan history, but can't see yourself giving a tour, you can still be an MHM docent. Volunteer

*continued on page 2*

## Fall Fun

at the  
**Michigan Historical Museum**

*October 4*

**Listening to the Past—A Brownie Try-It Program.** Brownie Girl Scouts earn a Try-It as they share community stories, act out a scene from the past and play games from long ago. 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Fee. Preregistration required: (517) 241-4060.

*October 5*

**Civil War Sunday.** Explore Michigan's Civil War history through music, games and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Kids can make a keepsake of the time period. 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

*October 11*

**Meet the Superfan!** Join superfan Roger Houle as he shares his passion for high school basketball in the *Hometown Hoops* special exhibit. Noon to 2:00 P.M.

*October 18*

**Dinner with the Big Three.** Enjoy dinner at the museum with other fans of Michigan history. Guests of honor will be the historical figures of Henry Ford, Walter Chrysler and William Durant. Fee. Preregistration required: (517) 373-1668.

*October 25*

**Take A Bite Out of History.** Sample antique apple varieties and discover their fascinating history. Then, look at contemporary varieties and how they are used in recipes. 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. Fee. Preregistration required: (517) 373-1905.

*November 9*

**2003 Veterans Tribute.** Join the Friends of Michigan History in honoring our state's veterans. Special exhibits and activities include the Massing of the Colors and a talk by Muskegon native Joseph Beyrle, a World War II vet and former POW who served in not one, but two armies. 2:00 P.M.

*November 21*

**Silver Bells in the City.** Visit the Michigan Historical Museum during special evening hours! Tour the galleries, enjoy light refreshments and make a holiday craft. Musical entertainment adds to the fun of this Lansing holiday tradition. 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

## Spotlight on archaeology

**M**ichigan's rich archaeological heritage spans more than 12,000 years. To promote the study, preservation and interpretation of the state's archaeological resources, Governor Jennifer Granholm has declared October 2003 Michigan Archaeology Month.

The Michigan Historical Museum System is participating in this celebration by presenting special programs and exhibits at four locations across the state. Admission is free unless noted. Call ahead for program details or visit [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org).



### Grayling - Hartwick Pines Logging Museum

*October 9* Hear an informative talk about archaeology as it pertains to logging in Northern Michigan. Throughout October, the Michigan Forest Visitor Center will display the archaeological finds of logging-camp excavations. Admission by state park permit. (989) 348-2537

### Garden - Fayette Historic Townsite

*October 10* Investigate Michigan's industrial past on an archaeology-themed walking tour of one of America's premier examples of a 19th-century rural industrial company town. Admission by state park permit. Preregistration required: (906) 644-2711.

### Negaunee - Michigan Iron Industry Museum

*October 10* Take a guided tour of the Carp River Forge site for a behind-the-scenes look at the pioneer industrial site dating from the late 1840s. Preregistration required: (906) 475-7857.

### Lansing - Michigan Historical Museum

*October 11* Don't miss this daylong archaeology extravaganza of special exhibits and demonstrations and the chance to meet archaeologists and hear discussions of their investigations. (517) 373-3559.

**The Friends of Michigan History and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation:  
Partners in Supporting the Programs of the Michigan Historical Center**

**DOCENT** *continued* opportunities may be found in the museum store, at the museum welcome center or at the museum's sister agency, the State Archives of Michigan, just to name a few.

To become an MHM docent, tour guides and non-guides alike, one must first complete a training program offered free of charge at the museum. The next program begins October 4 and continues every other Saturday until December 6. Class will meet from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. in the Rendezvous Room across from the first-floor special exhibit gallery.

To register for training or to learn more about the docent experience, call Dave Bridgens, docent liaison, at (517) 241-0594 or send e-mail to [bridgensd@michigan.gov](mailto:bridgensd@michigan.gov).

## Double-Discount Days at the Museum Store

*September 21 - September 27*  
*November 30 - December 6*

Your Friends of Michigan History member discount is twice as nice during The Museum Store's Double-Discount Days. Enjoy a 20% discount on every item in the store.

☞ 20% off all genealogy items during October

The Museum Store, inside the  
Michigan Library and Historical Center  
702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
(517) 373-1375

## October is Family History Month

**Y**our family history is an important part of Michigan history. The Michigan Historical Museum encourages you to delve into both during Family History Month.

The museum and its sister agencies within the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries have teamed together to bring you an October filled with opportunities for adults, children and families to explore family and Michigan history.

✂ **Special workshops.** The Library of Michigan and the State Archives of Michigan are presenting more than a dozen sessions looking at genealogy for beginners, advanced researchers and those with visual impairments.

✂ **Special hours.** Every Wednesday in October, the Michigan Historical Museum, Library of Michigan and the State Archives of Michigan will be open from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. There's no excuse for not paying a visit and remember, admission is free!

✂ **Special events.** The museum kicks off the month with Civil War Sunday on October 5 (see calendar of events on page 2). On October 18 and 25, the galleries will be filled with hands-on activities focusing on family history.

For a complete listing of Family History Month events and activities, visit our web site at [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org) or telephone (517) 373-3559.

## Welcome to Our New Friends

Maggie Allesee  
Suzanne Brouse  
Duane and Esther Brown  
John and Irene Cantlon  
Keith and Jean Harrison  
Eric McLaughlin  
Gerald and Beth Miller

Robert and Shelagh Miller  
Keith and Jane Molin  
John Schwarz, M.D.  
Ben and Polly Schwendener  
Jim and Vicki Wardlaw  
Robert Wiseman

## Thank You to Our Renewing Friends

Ann Marie Bentley  
Allen and Elaine Cable  
Frank DeRose, Jr.  
Helen Jones Earley  
David Johnson  
John and Barbara Koval  
Roger and Millicent Lane  
David and Nina Machtel, Jr.  
Joseph and Judy Manson

Thomas and Betty Miller  
Norman and Beverly North  
Mark and Charlene Reckase  
Marvis Richardson  
Lawrence and Marilyn Schlack  
Thomas Shiels  
Janet Tiedt  
Carol VanEck  
Jon and Sis Walton

## Join Us!

Become a partner with the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting Michigan's rich heritage.

### Your membership benefits include:

- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- A 10% discount at the Michigan Historical Museum Stores
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide museum discounts (visit [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org), click "Membership," then "Time Travelers")
- *The Museum Insider* quarterly newsletter
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- Membership card
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

For more information,  
call (517) 373-2565.

**Yes!** Please reserve the Friends of Michigan History membership indicated below

### ☐ Personal membership

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### Membership level (check one):

☐ \$40 Basic ☐ \$60 Contributing ☐ \$100 Sponsoring ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment method (check one):

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Friends of Michigan History  
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Cardholder's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit CID # (back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please detach and mail to:** Friends of Michigan History, P.O. Box 17035, Lansing, MI 48901

**Friends of Michigan History**  
**P.O. Box 70038**  
**Lansing, MI 48907**

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*The Museum Insider* is produced by  
Jennifer Sochor and Diana Paiz Engle  
of the Michigan Historical Museum.

**Next  
Meeting:  
Oct. 13**

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## Museum introduces heritage workshops

**T**he Michigan Historical Museum has announced the inaugural season for a full slate of workshops focusing on preserving Michigan handicraft traditions.

The workshops, designed by the museum's education staff, offer adults a truly hands-on approach to discovering Michigan history.

"Our children's workshops and summer day camps have been successful, in part, because of their creative hands-on activities," says Phillip C. Kwiatkowski, director of the Michigan Historical Museum System. "The adult workshops give men and women similar but more in-depth opportunities for discovering the handicraft traditions that played a part in our Michigan heritage."

More than a dozen skills and crafts will be explored in individual workshops throughout the year. Most workshops are presented in a single two-hour session on a weekend afternoon, but some workshops may be held on a weekday or have more than one session. Friends of Michigan History members will enjoy a special discount on all workshop fees.

The first workshop is a five-session course that will teach participants how to make hooked rugs using traditional tools, techniques and designs.

"Rug Hooking for Beginners" features instruction by rug-hooking artisan and teacher Wendy Hoard. The workshop begins October 26 from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. at the Michigan Historical Museum. Other dates in this sequential five-part workshop are November 2 and 23, and December 7 and 14. Each session will be followed by an optional two-hour practice and discussion period. The fee is \$80; a supply list will be provided.

For a complete workshop lineup and registration details, stay tuned to [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org). Or contact museum education specialist Jo Anne Arasim at (517) 373-1905 or [arasimj@michigan.gov](mailto:arasimj@michigan.gov).

### Other workshops for the 2003-2004 season include:

Preserving Family Treasures  
Learning To Tell History  
Hand-tinting Photographs  
Learning to Watercolor  
Snowshoes

Penny Rugs  
Yo-Yo Quilts  
Beeswax Candles  
Atlal